

County, VA have traveled to Washington to participate in today's wreath laying ceremony. These students are part of a program offered by the Henrico County Police Athletic League that instills in young people the values of integrity, self-respect, and discipline.

I offer my support and gratitude to the families and countless friends of these officers that have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Their memory is an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in remembering the fallen heroes of Henrico County, and thanking the Henrico Police Athletic League for service and commitment to our community.

DEATH OF TWO THOUSANDTH AMERICAN IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, recently, as many of my colleagues have remarked on the House floor, we reached the sad milestone of two thousand American soldiers having lost their lives in Afghanistan.

Tomorrow we break for our July 4th recess, celebrating our nation's independence, but for too many American families missing a father, a son or a daughter, the fourth of July will be a day of absence.

Mr. Speaker, we have a word for people who lose a spouse: "Widower."

We have a word also for the children left behind when parents die: "Orphans." But we have no words for the parents of children who die.

It is a tragedy when a parent outlives their child, and it is time to put an end to our children dying in Afghanistan.

For the families of two thousand American soldiers, and equally important, for the Afghan families who have lost sons and daughters, we need to end this war and bring our soldiers home so that a political solution can be achieved.

IN HONOR OF YO AZAMA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Yo Azama, a Japanese language teacher at North Salinas High School in Salinas, CA, who was named the 2012 National Language Teacher of the Year by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The National Language Teacher of the Year award was created to recognize a foreign language teacher who exhibits excellence in language education.

Competition for the Foreign Language Teacher of the Award is quite steep as nominees are first evaluated by their state language organization, after which each state submits its top candidate to one of five regional committees for additional review.

Learning a foreign language opens minds to other worlds and has been scientifically proven to generate more flexibility in thinking. I

was impressed by what Mr. Azama included in his application essay. He wrote "my experience as a language teacher convinces me that today's students are ready and more than willing to learn other languages and cultures, and prepare themselves to join a world that has no borders and offers them unlimited opportunities if they have the linguistic and cultural competency . . . Language connects us and as a result it binds us the global family that we are."

Mr. Speaker, this national award goes to someone who shows incredible passion for his profession, for his students, and for his community. I congratulate Mr. Azama on his much-deserved recognition as he continues to teach, lead, and inspire California's youth.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL A. W. GOODRIDGE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gail A. W. Goodridge, a leader in international development and a valued advisor and constituent, who recently passed away after a brave battle with cancer on June 18th.

Gail is an example of national heroes who remain too often unsung—those who answer a call to serve directly those most in need, regardless of their location around the world. Working in the field of global health and development with Family Health International (FHI 360), she contributed to the lives of vulnerable women and children during extended postings in the Caribbean, where she began her career, and in East Africa, where she confronted the misery of the HIV/AIDS epidemic by founding and directing a truly innovative program (known as the ROADS Project) to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS along African transport corridors.

At home, Gail was just as active on behalf of social justice, working in Arlington through St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and in secular advocacy organizations promoting immigrants' rights and affordable housing. Wherever she was, Gail was renowned for her creativity and hospitality, guided by her faith and her belief in doing the right thing. She was often in my office representing those without a voice with fierce idealism always tempered with compassion. She is remembered by her colleagues at home and abroad and by her faith communities, not only in Arlington, but in Kenya as well—by St. Joseph's the Worker Church.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to this worker in global human development and in offering condolences to Gail's family and colleagues on her passing.

HONORING MR. PETER DECRAENE
FOR RECEIVING THE 2011 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Peter DeCraene, a math teacher at Evanston Township High School, for receiving the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

The PAEMST program recognizes outstanding teachers for their contribution to teaching mathematics or science. Sponsored by the White House and administered by the National Science Foundation, PAEMST award recipients receive a certificate from President Obama and \$10,000. The award only goes to the finest teachers of science and mathematics in the country.

This year, President Obama recognized 97 mathematics and science teachers as recipients of this esteemed award. The applicants were chosen for their abilities to convey the concepts of math and science to their students, along with their work experience, educational background, and extracurricular activities related to the classroom. The PAEMST program rewards teachers for preparing and establishing a solid foundation of science, technology, engineering, and math in America's youth. Peter DeCraene has succeeded throughout his career, creatively teaching these disciplines to his students while helping his colleagues to do the same.

Mr. DeCraene's passion and enthusiasm over the past 23 years have inspired hundreds of students so that they may better contribute to America's success. The Chicago native graduated from DePaul University with a B.A. in mathematics, and an M.S. in computer science, and he received a Certificate of Advanced Study in educational leadership from National Lewis University. He prefers teaching in small groups so that students may learn by answering one another's questions. He is currently the math department chair at Evanston Township High School, overseeing 30 teachers, along with instructing new teachers in the school wide induction program. The DePaul University graduate is also a textbook author who has presented at state and local conferences.

Please join me in honoring my constituent, Peter DeCraene, and all the recipients of the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This is an honor worthy of special distinction and I look forward to seeing more great things from Mr. DeCraene.

JULY 4, 2012 NATURALIZATION CEREMONY IN HAMMOND

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this